

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement sheets of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1 and replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.

In Figure 1 elements 20a, 24a and 26a have been removed from robot 12a and placed on user 22a.

In Figure 7B and 9A robots are referenced as 12b' and 12a', respectively.

In Figure 8B the glove is now designated as 107.

Attachments following last page of this Amendment:

Replacement Sheets (10 pages)

Annotated Sheet Showing Change(s) (3 pages)

REMARKS

The examiner objected to the drawings "because the content of figure 1 does not match the written description. Specifically, the elements 20a, 24a and 26a are described as being on user 22a but are on robot 12a in the drawings." Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are enclosed in reply to the Office action

Applicant has also amended the drawings (FIGS. 7A and 9B) to refer to the robots as 12b' and 12a'.

Applicant has also amended the drawings (FIG. 8B) to refer to the glove as 107.

Specification

Applicant has deleted the Title from the abstract of the disclosure page. Applicant has deleted "noise" and replace with "nose" on Pg 9, line 2.

Claim Objections

Claim 3 was objected to. The claim was amended to call for "a second humanoid robot."

35 U.S.C § 103

The examiner rejected claims 1, 12, 14, 18 and 20-23 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choy et al. (US 6695770) in view of Yee et al. (US 6016385).

The examiner stated:

9. In regards to claims 1 and 14, Choy discloses a virtual reality encounter system comprising: a mannequin coupled to a computer system wherein the mannequin is fitted with appropriate sensors that are connected to the computer system to transmit to another location and user device over a network (3:23-25), a headset, to display morphing animations and animated textures on the appropriate avatar (9:65-10:6) and a processor that overlays a virtual environment over one or more portions of the video image to form a virtual scene (8:47-58 and 9:65-10:6), Choy seems to lack explicitly stating the use of a camera coupled to the mannequin.

10. In related prior art, Yee discloses a robot system wherein an operator controls the robot and receives sensory information from the robot, including a pair of cameras corresponding to the remote user's eyes coupled to the robot for receiving a video image where the cameras send the video images via a communication network to the user (5:11-37). One skilled in the art would recognize the advantages of providing video signals to a remote user.

11. Therefore it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time to combine the camera configuration of Yee with the two person configuration of Choy to provide a more realistic experience to both users.

Claim 1 is directed to a virtual reality encounter system. Neither Choy nor Yee alone or in combination describe or suggest ... a mannequin, a camera supported by the mannequin, the camera for capturing an image of a scene; a processor receiving the image from the camera, overlaying a virtual environment over one or more portions of the image to form an image of a virtual scene and sending the image of the virtual scene to a communications network; and a set of goggles to render a second virtual scene from signals received from the communication network.

The examiner argues that: "Choy discloses a virtual reality encounter system comprising: a mannequin coupled to a computer system wherein the mannequin is fitted with appropriate sensors that are connected to the computer system to transmit to another location and user device over a network (3:23-25)," Applicant concedes that Choy teaches a "doll" and arguably one could say a mannequin, however the examiner does not address the features of the claim. While some combination of these references may teach a mannequin, what makes the claims allowable, are the features of a camera coupled to the mannequin the camera for sending video signals to a communications network and a set of goggles including a display to render electrical signals representative of video received from the communications network.

The examiner notes that: "Choy seems to lack explicitly stating the use of a camera coupled to the mannequin." The examiner however contends that: "In related prior art, Yee discloses a robot system wherein an operator controls the robot and receives sensory information from the robot, including a pair of cameras corresponding to the remote user's eyes coupled to the robot for receiving a video image where the cameras send the video images via a communication network to the user (5:11-37). One skilled in the art would recognize the advantages of providing video signals to a remote user." Yee does not cure the deficiencies in Choy. Choy does not disclose a camera coupled to the mannequin, which the examiner acknowledges. Yee, while including a camera mounted on a robot; no combination of Choy with Yee suggests the processor receiving the image from the camera, overlaying a virtual environment over one or more portions of the image to form an image of a virtual scene and sending the image of the virtual scene to a communications network.

In addition, while Choy may describe “a headset, to display morphing animations” and Yee may describe “the user having a set of goggles to display a morphed video image to the user (column 5, lines 11-37),” no combination of Choy with Yee suggests the features of a processor receiving the image from the camera, overlaying a virtual environment over one or more portions of the image to form an image of a virtual scene and sending the image of the virtual scene to a communications network.

In addition, the purported combination of Choy with Yee would have the goggles of Yee display the location of the mannequin, e.g., the first location corresponding to the video image captured by the camera in claim 1. However, the operator in Yee would not be concerned with sending any image of the second location, i.e., of the operator to the location of the robot in Yee.

Applicant contends therefore that the alleged combined teachings of Chou and Yee neither describe nor suggest the claimed invention.

Claims 12, 14, 18 and 20-23 are allowable for analogous reasons.

The examiner rejected claims 2-6, 10, 11, 13 and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choy in view of Yee as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Dundon (US 7046151).

Applicant contends that claims 2-6, 10, 11, 13 and 15-17 17 are allowable over Choy in view of Yee and further in view of Dundon at least for the reasons discussed in claim 1, in that Dundon does not cure the deficiencies of the combination of referenced applied to claim 1.

The examiner rejected claims 7, 8, 9 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choy in view of Yee and Dundon as applied to claim 6 above, and further in view of Abbasi (US 6786863).

Applicant contends that claims 7, 8, and 9 are allowable over Choy in view of Yee and further in view of Dundon and further in view of Abbasi at least for the reasons discussed in claim 1, in that Abbasi does not cure the deficiencies of the combination of references.

While Abbasi mentions: “Once the compressed video arrives at the second computing device, it is presented on a graphic display. This provides a visual perception of the contact

episode embodied in the manipulation of the mechanical surrogates.” Abbasi does not teach a set of goggles. Rather, Abbasi teaches a display attached to the computer as disclosed in FIG. 1. No use would be provided by substituting the display for the set of goggles alleged to be disclosed by Choy.

The examiner rejected claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Choy in view of Yee as applied to claim 18 above, and further in view of Abbasi.

Claim 19 is allowable over Choy in view of Yee and further in view of Abbasi at least for the reasons discussed in claim 1, in that Abbasi does not cure the deficiencies of the combination of referenced applied to claim 1.

It is believed that all the rejections and/or objections raised by the examiner have been addressed.

In view of the foregoing, applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the examiner's earliest convenience.

All of the dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons for which the claims on which they depend are patentable.

Canceled claims, if any, have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Any circumstance in which the applicant has (a) addressed certain comments of the examiner does not mean that the applicant concedes other comments of the examiner, (b) made arguments for the patentability of some claims does not mean that there are not other good reasons for patentability of those claims and other claims, or (c) amended or canceled a claim does not mean that the applicant concedes any of the examiner's positions with respect to that claim or other claims.

Applicant : Raymond Kurzweil
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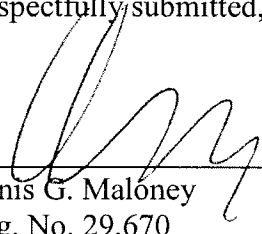
Attorney's Docket No.: 14202-005001

Please charge the Petition for Extension of Time fee of **\$525** and apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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Denis G. Maloney
Reg. No. 29,670

Fish & Richardson P.C.
225 Franklin Street
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: (617) 542-5070
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906